



# The Zucchet Gazette

News from Councilmember Michael Zucchet, District Two May 2003



## Councilmember Zucchet serves on the following:

- Natural Resources and Culture Committee
- Land Use and Housing Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Clean Water Task Force
- Mission Bay Landfill Technical Advisory Committee
- San Diego Trolley Board

## In this issue:

- North Embarcadero -- page 2
- Million Can Month -- page 2
- Council Corner -- page 3
- Community Connection -- page 4
- Good Deed Day -- page 4
- Pulse of the Community -- page 4

## Contact Mike:

City Administration Building  
202 C Street, MS 10A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone: (619) 236-6622  
Fax: (619) 236-6996  
Email: [mzucchet@sandiego.gov](mailto:mzucchet@sandiego.gov)  
Web: [www.sandiego.gov/cd2](http://www.sandiego.gov/cd2)

## Pacific Beach Empty Lot Going to the Dogs *Councilmember Zucchet Breaks Ground on Capehart Dog Park*

Councilmember Michael Zucchet and community members broke ground on Capehart Dog Park in Pacific Beach on Wednesday, April 23. The City property, located on Soledad Mountain Road near Chalcedony Street, will be transformed from a weed-ridden sloped lot to a fenced, grassy leash-free area for dogs.

"I am thrilled to break ground on Capehart Dog Park," said Councilmember Zucchet. "Adding park space to Council District Two is a pet project of mine."

Work includes two fenced, turfed off-leash dog areas, a decomposed granite and supported gravel parking lot, dog watering stations, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches, and temporary bathroom facilities.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2003, encompasses approximately 1.2 acres of the 4.5 acre site, and will cost \$632,000.

Currently, the vacant City property, spanning Soledad Mountain Road between Chalcedony Street and Felspar Street, is primarily a sloped lot overgrown with weeds from recent rains.



"It is high time that this empty lot goes to the dogs," said Councilmember Zucchet. "I am confident that Capehart Dog Park will be enjoyed by area dog owners and non-dog owners alike."

Joining the Councilmember in breaking ground with official golden shovels were Ellen Oppenheim, Director of the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department; Jim Moore, President of the Pacific Beach Town Council; Catherine Strohle and Andy Stiles of the Pacific Beach Community Planning Committee; Karen Kaye of San Diego D.O.G.; and Eve Anderson representing the Friends of Kate Sessions Park.

## The New Vision for North Embarcadero

By Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmember Michael Zucchet

*Printed in the San Diego Union-Tribune*

San Diego's waterfront is among the most accessible and picturesque in the world. The North Embarcadero, stretching from Seaport Village to Lindbergh Field, has long had the potential to become one of the most beautiful jewels adorning our revitalized downtown. Today, we are proposing the creation of a joint powers authority to move forward and finally realize this vision for a truly spectacular bayfront in San Diego.

The North Embarcadero Alliance was created in 1997 to plan and implement improvements to this underutilized waterfront. The Alliance, comprised of the city, the county, Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), the Port District and the U.S. Navy, brought together a team of elected and appointed officials to create the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan. They produced a striking blueprint for a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented waterfront district that will serve as a catalyst for even more successful redevelopment downtown.

In the last few years, this vision has remained just that – a vision. Now is the time to move forward. We have listened to project stakeholders, business owners, community leaders and the citizens of San Diego. We have heard loud and clear that everyone shares the same passion for this idea and is eager to literally build this exciting new waterfront.

In light of today's budget challenges, we must stay focused on this goal and be creative in how we achieve it. The plan will take longer to implement than first envisioned. It also will need to be constructed in fiscally digestible increments. Nevertheless, we must not allow progress to be stalled any longer.

The city of San Diego's Redevelopment Agency and the Port of San Diego have jurisdiction over the majority of the land in the North Embarcadero area, so these agencies should assume larger roles in completing the design and implementing the plan. With this in mind, we propose that these

agencies form a joint powers authority (JPA) to help facilitate the completion of the schematic design phase and move forward with the implementation of the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan.

If approved, the proposed JPA will help jumpstart the stalled initial phase of the project. Its first order of business will be to complete the design by the end of the year. As the JPA continues its work, the county of San Diego will effectively create one of the first phases of the revitalized North Embarcadero by completing its plans for an expansive, majestic public park on its property near the waterfront.

This JPA will provide the tools to transform our spectacular vision for San Diego's downtown waterfront into a reality. It is time to move forward together to implement the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan for the betterment of San Diego and for the enjoyment of all San Diegans.

## Recycled Cans = Cash for Parks!

### *Councilmember Zucchet Kicks Off Million Can Month*

On Monday, May 5, Councilmember Michael Zucchet officially kicked off the City's second annual Million Can Month recycling campaign during a press conference at the Santa Clara Point Recreation Center in Mission Beach. Zucchet started the City's month-long effort to collect one million cans by helping EDCO Disposal Corporation unload the first major contribution of 30,000



*Councilmember Zucchet applauds donation of cans to Santa Clara Recreation Center in Mission Beach.*

cans in the Center's parking lot. The revenue generated from collecting one million containers during May could earn as much as \$40,000 that will be donated to the Park and Recreation Department to help improve facilities and activities.

Organized by the City's Environmental Services and Park and Recreation Departments, the Million Can Month campaign is

*(Continued on page 3.)*

## Million Can Month Kick-Off *(Continued from page 2.)*

designed to increase recycling throughout the year at the City's 42 recreation centers with recycling stations. At the end of the year, the total revenues from the containers collected at recreation centers will be given back to the centers.

"The Santa Clara Point Recreation Center is the perfect location to kick off the Million Can Month recycling campaign," said Councilmember Michael Zucchet. "Last year this center brought in more recyclables than any other in the City thanks to conscientious residents who care for our environment. Pam Glover and the rest of the Santa Clara Rec Center staff have been equally conscientious and creative in spending their funds intelligently. Campaigns like this are vital because they are an

excellent example of the City finding creative ways to generate funds rather than using monies from the General Fund."

The City's Environmental Services Department has operated recycling stations at park and recreation centers since 1992 to offer residents without curbside recycling, such as those living in multi-family homes, convenient locations to recycle. Since then, more than 11,000 tons of recyclables have been diverted from disposal at the Miramar Landfill and over \$600,000 in revenue from the sale of recyclables has been donated to recreation centers.

The revenue donated to the centers has helped purchase items that range from field lighting, mats for gymnastics,

tennis court nets, ping pong tables, benches for basketball courts to even hosting special events such as a Spring Egg Hunt and Winter Wonderland where imported snow gave local children the experience of playing in snow during winter.

To participate during the month-long campaign, residents can bring the following recyclable items to recycling stations at recreation centers: aluminum and steel cans, glass food and beverage containers; any plastic bottle (no matter what number is on the bottom) marked "CA Cash Refund" or "CA Redemption Value;" any plastic bottle with a narrow neck and a #1 or #2 on the bottom; and newspaper, clean-mixed paper and cardboard.

### ***Council Corner:*** **Recent Actions by the San Diego City Council**

#### **MTDB to Regulate Minicabs**

The San Diego City Council agreed to ask the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) to regulate Short Ride Neighborhood Vehicles (SRNVs), commonly known as minicabs, at their meeting on April 29. Many SRNVs have been seen throughout District Two, and have been especially noticeable operating throughout downtown.

"Minicabs have provided a niche transportation service in San Diego," commented Councilmember Zucchet. "I hope that MTDB is able to quickly write

a sensible ordinance allowing them to operate in the City."

#### **July 4 Keg Ban Proposed**

On April 30, the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee of the City Council unanimously supported a proposed ordinance to ban keg beer from all City beaches on July 4. Residents from throughout District Two have grown concerned about the proliferation of kegs and associated alcohol abuse on the annual holiday and urged Council action to increase their public safety.

#### **Seals at the Children's Pool**

On April 1, the City Council voted 6-3 to ask the City Manager to prepare a report on how to reduce pollution levels of the water and return the Children's Pool in La Jolla to recreational use. The Council voted to let the Seal Rock Mammal Reserve lapse, but voted to continue the docent program at the site and to install educational signage. Recently, the waters of the Children's Pool have been opened for swimming, but it is hoped that in the future, the area will be used by seals, divers, fishermen, and children.

## Community Connection: What's New in Your Community ?

### Audible Signal Installed in Ocean Beach

Councilmember Michael Zucchet cut through three years of bureaucratic red tape and had an audible signal installed at the Ocean Beach intersection of Voltaire and Ebers Streets in April.

Ocean Beach resident Don Davis advocated for the installation of an audible signal to alert visually impaired individuals of the changing sign. Mr. Davis is visually impaired and crosses the intersection of Voltaire and Ebers on foot daily. Unfortunately, heavy traffic on Voltaire and noise from the neighboring fire station made it difficult for him to know when it was safe for him to proceed safely.

In February 2002, the Subcommittee for the Removal of Architectural Barriers (SCRAB) denied the audible signal request. Councilmember Zucchet, upon hearing of Mr. Davis' plight, requested that SCRAB reevaluate their initial recommendation.

"I am pleased that City officials recognized the special needs of Mr. Davis," commented Zucchet. "His safety was compromised until the new signal was installed."

### Councilmember Zucchet Hosts Arts Luncheon

Councilmember Michael Zucchet hosted a luncheon with the San Diego arts community on

downtown. Representatives from approximately 20 organizations, including the Children's Museum, Mainly Mozart, and the San Diego Repertory Theatre introduced themselves to Councilmember Zucchet and discussed working as a coalition to address issues such as funding and education. Another of the main topics of the extensive dialogue was the desire for art space to be included in downtown redevelopment projects.

### Learn More about Ocean Beach

The Ocean Beach Town Council is hosting the O.B. Service Information and Awareness Open House on Tuesday, May 20 from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center, 4726 Santa Monica Avenue.

The goal of the seminar is to provide the families, residents, and homeless of Ocean Beach, Point Loma, and the Midway District with resources and guidance to the services offered and provided to the community. People with questions are encouraged to call (619) 846-6269.

### Z Team Cleans Up Pacific Beach

Discover Pacific Beach and local residents joined Councilmember Zucchet on May 3 to rid the community of stickers and other vandalism on street signs and other public property as part of the Z Team's Good Deed Day. Approximately 20 volunteers braved the rain to help the cause.



Michael Zucchet and his City Council colleagues cut the ribbon on the newly renovated San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center in Hillcrest on April 25.

## The Z Team GOOD DEED DAY

The Monarch School needs volunteers!

*Join Councilmember Zucchet and the Z Team and share your knowledge, expertise, and time with disadvantaged and homeless youth at the Monarch School.*

Call [Name] at [Number] to learn more about ongoing volunteer opportunities.